AR220-1

NEWS

NMTBA
The Association For Manufacturing Technology

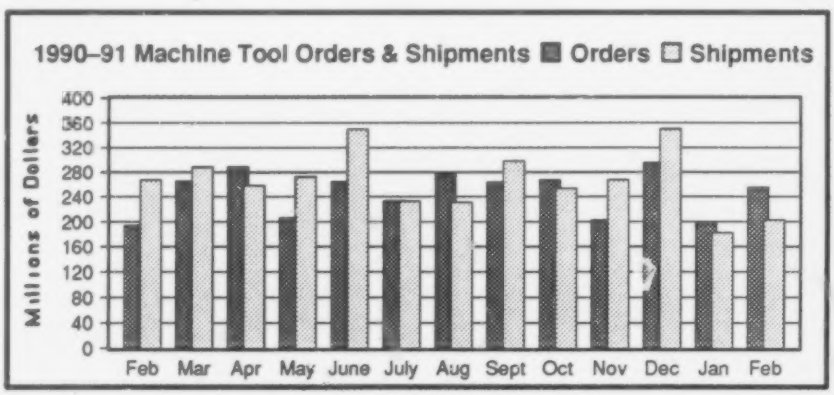
Contact:
Charles Pollock, VP, Communications, 703–827–5206
Glyn Finley, Statistical Director, 703–827–5255

FOR RELEASE: March 25, 1991

February Machine Tool Orders Up 27.7%

February machine tool orders reached $255.20 million, up 27.7% compared to January, according to figures released today by NMTBA – The Association For Manufacturing Technology. Year–to–date 1991 figures are 15% ahead of the comparable figures for 1990. Orders were 31.2% higher in February 1991 than in February 1990.

Machine tool shipments totaled $203,05 million in February, up 11.2% compared to January. Year–to–date shipments were down 22% from 1990. Compared to February 1990, February 1991 shipments were down 24.2%.



NMTBA President Albert W. Moore noted, "Despite the concern of some about the U.S. economy, domestic order strength accounted for February's gain. The steady performance of the U.S. machine tool industry during the recent economic slowdown and the war in the Persian Gulf indicates the importance to all American manufacturers of this small but vital basic industry."

He added "We've been asked whether the victory in the Persian Gulf and the rebuilding of Kuwait will affect the U.S. machine tool industry. The fact that machine tools are used to make everything from oilfield equipment to construction machinery and motor vehicles means they will

(more)

be needed by companies that are modernizing or expanding their manufacturing facilities. Our industry is ready to meet their demands with modern efficient manufacturing equipment at a competitive price. The U.S. economy is already showing signs of renewed energy, in fact consumer confidence has leaped upward. With manageable inventory levels, lower interest rates, and easing inflation, this is a time for U.S. industry to think positive, to produce and to build."

Metal Cutting

Metal cutting orders in February totaled $196.65 million, up 51.2% for the month. Year–to–date metal cutting orders are up 26.9% compared to 1990. Comparing February 1991 to February a year ago orders are up 69.1%.

Metal cutting shipments rose to $134.00 million in February, up 20.9%. Year–to–date shipments were down 26.2% compared to the same period a year ago. Compared to February 1990, February 1991 metal cutting shipments were down 20.9%.

Metal Forming

February orders for metal forming equipment stood at $58.55 million, down 16.1% for the month. Year–to–date metal forming orders are off 7.3%. Comparing February 1991 to February 1990, metal forming orders are down 25.2%.

February metal forming shipments totaled $69.05 million, down 3.8% compared to January. Year–to–date metal forming shipments are down 13.4%. Comparing February 1991 to February 1990, metal forming shipments were down 29.9%.

Backlog

The machine tool order backlog for February 1991 is $1,537.85 million, up from January's $1,485.70 million. The February 1990 backlog was $1,705.10 million.

# # #

COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
FEB 1991	176.95	19.70	196.65	50.95	7.60	58.55	227.90	27.30	255.20
JAN 1991	107.20	22.85	130.05	59.80	10.00	69.80	167.00	32.85	199.85
% CHANGE									
FEB 1991:JAN 1991	+65.1	-13.8	+51.2	-14.8	-24.0	-16.1	+36.5	-16.9	+27.7
FEB 1990	100.45	15.85	116.30	56.70	21.55	78.25	157.15	37.40	194.55
% CHANGE									
FEB 1991:FEB 1990	+76.2	+24.3	+69.1	-10.1	-64.7	-25.2	+45.0	-27.0	+31.2
YEAR TO DATE 1991	284.15	42.55	326.70	110.75	17.60	128.35	394.90	60.15	455.05
YEAR TO DATE 1990	218.15	39.30	257.45	98.20	40.20	138.40	316.35	79.50	395.85
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	+30.3	+8.3	+26.9	+12.8	-56.2	-7.3	+24.8	-24.3	+15.0

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
FEB 1991	110.25	23.75	134.00	58.85	10.20	69.05	169.10	33.95	203.05
JAN 1991	93.25	17.55	110.80	61.00	10.75	71.75	154.25	28.30	182.55
% CHANGE									
FEB 1991:JAN 1991	+18.2	+35.3	+20.9	-3.5	-5.1	-3.8	+9.6	+20.0	+11.2
FEB 1990	143.60	25.90	169.50	89.70	8.80	98.50	233.30	34.70	268.00
% CHANGE									
FEB 1991:FEB 1990	-23.2	-8.3	-20.9	-34.4	+15.9	-29.9	-27.5	-2.2	-24.2
YEAR TO DATE 1991	203.50	41.30	244.80	119.85	20.95	140.80	323.35	62.25	385.60
YEAR TO DATE 1990	287.00	44.70	331.70	145.35	17.30	162.65	432.35	62.00	494.35
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	-29.1	-7.6	-26.2	-17.5	+21.1	-13.4	-25.2	+0.4	-22.0

Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,532.50	$ 432.20	$2,964.70	$1,468.40	$2,855.55	$ 444.35	$3,299.90
1991							
JAN	$ 167.00	$ 32.85	$ 199.85	$1,485.70	$ 154.25	$ 28.30	$ 182.55
FEB (P)	$ 227.90	$ 27.30	$ 255.20	$1,537.85	$ 169.10	$ 33.95	$ 203.05
2 MONTHS	$ 394.90	$ 60.15	$ 455.05		$ 323.35	$ 62.25	$ 385.60

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,641.25	$ 459.85	$3,101.10	$ 108.75	$ 27.65	$ 136.40
1991						
JAN	$ 176.75	$ 40.00	$ 216.75	$ 9.75	$ 7.15	$ 16.90
FEB (P)	$ 238.00	$ 28.35	$ 266.35	$ 10.10	$ 1.05	$ 11.15
2 MONTHS	$ 414.75	$ 68.35	$ 483.10	$ 19.85	$ 8.20	$ 28.05

P - Preliminary
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,771.95	$ 298.35	$2,070.30	$1,164.00	$2,004.45	$ 325.15	$2,329.60
1991							
JAN	$ 107.20	$ 22.85	$ 130.05	$1,183.25	$ 93.25	$ 17.55	$ 110.80
FEB (P)	$ 176.95	$ 19.70	$ 196.65	$1,245.90	$ 110.25	$ 23.75	$ 134.00
2 MONTHS	$ 284.15	$ 42.55	$ 326.70		$ 203.50	$ 41.30	$ 244.80

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,867.25	$ 318.45	$2,185.70	$ 95.30	$ 20.10	$ 115.40
1991						
JAN	$ 115.90	$ 29.95	$ 145.85	$ 8.70	$ 7.10	$ 15.80
FEB (P)	$ 186.60	$ 20.70	$ 207.30	$ 9.65	$ 1.00	$ 10.65
2 MONTHS	$ 302.50	$ 50.65	$ 353.15	$ 18.35	$ 8.10	$ 26.45

P - Preliminary
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 760.55	$ 133.85	$ 894.40	$ 304.40	$ 851.10	$ 119.20	$ 970.30
1991							
JAN	$ 59.80	$ 10.00	$ 69.80	$ 302.45	$ 61.00	$ 10.75	$ 71.75
FEB (P)	$ 50.95	$ 7.60	$ 58.55	$ 291.95	$ 58.85	$ 10.20	$ 69.05
2 MONTHS	$ 110.75	$ 17.60	$ 128.35		$ 119.85	$ 20.95	$ 140.80

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 774.00	$ 141.40	$ 915.40	$ 13.45	$ 7.55	$ 21.00
1991						
JAN	$ 60.85	$ 10.05	$ 70.90	$ 1.05	$ .05	$ 1.10
FEB (P)	$ 51.40	$ 7.65	$ 59.05	$ .45	$ .05	$ .50
2 MONTHS	$ 112.25	$ 17.70	$ 129.95	$ 1.50	$ .10	$ 1.60

P - Preliminary
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology